

IN FAR NICARAGUA.

The Great Big Wrangle Over an Insignificant Strip.

THE MOSQUITO QUESTION ENDED.

A Proclamation of Augustus Frederic Goss, Colonial Secretary at Belize—How the Colony was Formed.

LEON, NICARAGUA, Feb. 7, 1889.—[Special correspondence of THE HERALD.]—That ancient bone of contention,

THE MOSQUITO COAST

which is heretofore called by those who ought to know, Mosquitia, (pronounced mook-see-ah), the second syllable—has occupied the attention of European nations, off and on, since away back in the 17th century. It seems remarkable that the government of Her Britannic Majesty, upon whose vast possessions "the sun never sets," should show so much more interest in this insignificant bit of unhealthy coast, in an out-of-the-way corner of America, than do the Americans themselves; but such, nevertheless, has long been the case.

The contested strip of Nicaragua's territory, which is only about 40 miles wide, under the alleged protection of Great Britain, from 1655 to 1850—when that rather un-American document, the Bulwer-Pythcott treaty, gave to England certain rights in her colony of Belize, in seeking for such claims as she had set up on this coast; and by the treaty of Managua in 1850, England formally ceded her protectorate to Nicaragua.

But the wrangle still goes on, almost unabated—not that there is now any just cause for it, but because these people must have something to wrangle about and this mosquito-borne will do as well as any other.

First, let us see where the long-contested strip is located. You will find it in the north eastern portion of Central America, bounded north and east by the Caribbean Sea, south by Costa Rica, west by Honduras, and south-west by Nicaragua. The San Juan river divides it from Costa Rica, and including some disputed portions claimed by Costa Rica—Mosquitia comprises an area of about 34,000 square miles, at least, that is a fair average of the many estimates that have been made—for nobody seems to know exactly where the boundary line should be.

The adjacent "Bay of Islands," including Ruatan, Utila, Bonaca, etc., now belong to the Republic of Honduras; but until 1821 those islands formed part of the Spanish viceroyalty of Guatemala. The earliest Spanish historians squandered a vast amount of time and ink in pointing out their superiority, and subsequent events would indicate that they succeeded in impressing their ideas upon the world. In 1642

A PARTY OF ENGLISH BUCCANNERS took forcible possession of the islands, (then claimed by Spain) and held them more than half a century. In 1715 the Spaniards made an attempt to regain possession of them; and finally did so—only to find each once lovely island a barren waste covered with smoking ruins, for the freebooters destroyed everything that could be burned or rased before taking their enforced departure.

In 1762 England again seized the "Bay of Islands," and attempted to take possession of the whole eastern coast of Central America. By that time, however, Castilian blood was up, and Spain—always a proud nation—had then more ability to command respect than she can claim to-day. A war ensued, which was kept up at intervals during twenty years, mostly on the high seas; when a treaty of peace was at last concluded, by the provisions of which England was bound to destroy all her fortifications in those regions and withdraw her men.

But why Albion, relying on a secret reservation, afterwards denied that Ruatan was included in the treaty, and kept that island fortified more strongly than ever.

War, of course, resulted; and during the course of it, Ruatan was seized by Guatemala. A new treaty was made in 1785, and Spain, desiring to protect herself from any future invasion by Great Britain, provided that the British should abandon all Central America, and all the islands dependent upon it. Thus, by solemn treaty, England surrendered all her claims to any part of the American continent and its adjacent islands; but notwithstanding all this, she still held fast to little Ruatan; and she stuck to the point for three long years, with persevering worth a better cause, while Spain raged in vain. At length another treaty was hatched up, by which England again agreed to evacuate all her ports and possessions, on the American continent and all its islands, without any exceptions or reservations whatever. But in 1790, while England and Spain were at war for other reasons, the English again snatched Ruatan; but soon gave it up to Honduras. In 1814 another treaty was entered into, precisely like that of twenty-eight years before, except that now England gave the possessions to Honduras instead of to Spain. Indeed the chief business of the Powers in those days seems to have been the making of treaties and the breaking of them.

Again in 1843 Commodore Macdonald, of the British Navy, took possession of the islands, and hoisted that of England; but hardly had he turned his back upon Ruatan, when the British flag was taken down and the Union Jack displayed. Macdonald was removed from his post, and Britain—grown wiser concerning the conduct of her rebel daughter, the United States, repudiated his conduct as unauthorized. By this action, the Central American states naturally insisted that Albion had concluded, at last, to abandon all claim to the long-contested territory. But in that they were mistaken; and, being weak, they were obliged to submit. Great Britain now asserts no claim over the Bay of Islands, except so far as the claim is connected with Belize; and her rights there are questionable, being based upon nothing but an ancient treaty with Spain, which simply gave her license to cut wood at Honduras.

After the discovery of gold in California and the consequent rush across the Isthmus, England—foreseeing that new attempts would be made to open an inter-oceanic ship canal, (a scheme which had even then been talked of for three centuries,) set on foot negotiations with the United States, through Lord Palmerston, for the formation of a treaty intended to circumscribe the genius of America and put a check upon the evident intention of the U. S. to appropriate to herself the advantages of such a communication across the continent. The result was that celebrated convention of 1850, between the Hon. John M. Clayton, U. S. Secretary of State, and the Right Honorable Sir Henry Bulwer, Minister Plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary of Great Britain at Washington, and Minister of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Order of the Bath.

The remarkable prodigy which these national midwives introduced to the world, was too well known to need reproduction. The treaty hatched between them vainly, and announced to the world that all future disputes were settled in Central America, so far as the pretensions of Great Britain in that quarter were concerned, and that "Mosquito Question" was permanently disposed of, and the general welfare of all mankind assured in a possible mode of communication between the oceans.

The only part of it, however, which had a political bearing, or which

NEARLY TOUCHED THE CHIEF QUESTION

in which the U. S. was interested, viz—the British aggression in Central America—was article 1, and, which, stripped of its high-sounding phrases, amounts to nothing more than a doctored play for forwards, as it may be read back wards or forwards, as interest may dictate. It was finally accepted by the U. S. however, under the belief that it terminated forever all British pretensions in Central America; but only about a year after its perfection, a British Man-of-war appeared in the commodious harbor of Ruatan, and its commander, Captain Jolly, proceeded to organize that island as a dependency of Belize, or British Honduras.

"So the astonished people of Ruatan and the disgusted statesmen of the U. S. were made

acquainted with the following proclamation, issued from Belize:

OFFICE OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, BELIZE, July 17th, 1882.

This is to give notice that Her most Gracious Majesty, our Queen, has been pleased to constitute and make the islands of Ruatan, Bonaca, Utila, Bonaca, Helene and Morat, to be a colony, to be known and designated as "The Colony of the Bay Islands."

By command of Her Majesty's Superintendent, AUGUSTUS FREDERIC GOSS, Colonial Secretary.

God save the Queen! All Americans are sufficiently familiar with the rest, so we need not go farther into the history and results of this ridiculous farce—the Bulwer-Pythcott business.

As to Ruatan,—"or Ruatan Island," as it is now more commonly called—it is 30 miles long by about 9 miles broad. The whole group, comprising Bay of Islands, has a fine climate and most prolific soil. Their estimated population is about 2,000, of which number scarcely 300 are whites, half of those being Spaniards, principally immigrants from Caymans.

FANNIE B. WARD.

EULOGIZING MR. MATTHEWS

And scoring the Paper Spoilers of our Fading Morning Contemporary.

To the Editor of THE HERALD.

Allow me, as a single-tax man, to thank Mr. Matthews for his able and manly review of the irreproachable name and glorious teachings of Henry George from the esteemed pen of the Tribune villifier. Further calumny demands further refutation. Of course, it is out of the question to discuss political economy with the Tribune. The gross ignorance betrayed by your contemporary upon economic science renders discussion impossible. Insult, not logic; invective, not argument, seem to be the modes operandi of the warfare this hero wages on his own dunghill when assailed.

As to his remedies, they are no remedies at all. They are the remedies of a social quack; the mumbling idiocies of a disordered brain. Society needs a reformer—a real reformer—one who can kill or cure. I demand in the name of society that the Tribune man try his skill. From a whole-saled theorist he becomes the broad-lived practitioner. If he can't cure, he can at least kill.

By more protection, give work to the idle who will work, compel those who won't work to work and kill those who can't work, seems to be our quack's panacea for a suffering society.

The remedy of "more protection," the moment it is applied, bursts like a soap bubble. Suppose, for instance, the government were to increase the tariff on Staffordshire crockery and Sevres china-ware, in order to foster the American manufacture of such articles, to such a point as to make their importation prohibitory: will it not follow, that for every idle man to whom work is given in the American protected industry one idle man will appear in England?

More, since it is generally accepted that larger earnings are due all the world over to larger productiveness, does it not follow that the American working man receiving double the wages of his foreign brother, will do double the work? In that case, two foreigners will lose work in the foreign labor market, for each American who finds work in the Tribune crockery shop. More still, shipbuilders, cordwainers and sailors would be rendered idle by the transfer.

Now, to make the scheme work successfully, you must prohibit the immigration of the idle foreigner as well as the importation of his goods. The foreign crockery maker must live; to live, he must work; to work, he must follow the trail of his flying trade. This is not a matter of choice. He is compelled to do it. Hereditary taste and the skill and ability that unfit him for other occupation, compel him to chase his trade even to the uttermost parts of the earth. Deprived of his work at home he will seek it in America. So, the difficulty becomes more complicated.

It stands thus: American labor market less one American idle, plus two foreigners. To be consistent, stop up the gap; close every gate by which every foreign working man is admitted; build up American industry upon the ruins of a world and we will all be happy.

Labor is the necessity of life. Labor, like water, will find its level, and no scheme to benefit one country at the expense of another can for this reason succeed. Compel the willfully idle to work is the next quackish measure to be adopted. The working-classes are now in arms against convict labor. To cheapen goods, reduce wages, drives honest men out of work in favor of criminals. Too many workmen is what is the matter. The struggle to live has become a cut-throat struggle. Trades unions forbid apprentices to learn trades. England, groaning under social pressure, is driving her able-bodied children from her shores. America, not yet scratched, is crying "stop!"

Would it not be best to close the portals of nature, as well as those of imagination? Matthews must be right, is right, if present social conditions are right.

The scheme collapses. From a general remedy for society the Tribune reformer prescribes a special remedy for the individual. He hatches two dozen chickens, in dozen turkeys and ten acres of potatoes, in some sequestered vale five hundred miles from anywhere; sells them to no one, gets rich upon markets that don't exist and upon freight that leaves a surplus of nothing at all! If blowing coal raises potatoes the forcing roots of the Tribune would create a glut; but work from that quarter would create a famine.

As to Mr. Matthews, I know him not, but I will venture to be an honest, quick-witted and intelligent member of society, and that he belongs to the upper class—the working class.

The most dastardly of acts is for a newspaper to falsely assail the good name of a citizen. Henry George's high mission forbids him to notice every editorial cur who yelps at his heels. Count Leon Tolstoi next in power and influence to the Czar of Russia, Friedrich, the iron-founder of Germany; Lord Hobhouse, William Saunders, M. P.; Thos. Power O'Connor, editor of the London Star; Dr. Clarke, M. P. for Liverpool; Michael Davitt, the patriot, are only a few of the leaders across the water who are following the fortunes of the California prophet.

In America the names of tradesmen, professional men, clergymen and workmen who have received the new gospel are too numerous to mention. From the islands of the sea, from Australasia, the cry to charge upon social wrongs has gone up and Henry George stands in the van of battle.

Our chief is Sir Oracle. When he speaks let no dog bark.

When year before last he came down to more practical explanations, he declared his theory to be, "that no man should have either consideration or compensation for any improvement he may have made upon land." For this the Tribune says it denounced Henry George as a dishonest demagogue, and that he was a paper spoiler of that sheet, recent and become a single-tax man! The case is hopeful. I am ready to prove the statement to be a lie cut out of the whole cloth. I challenge the writer of that statement to meet me on any platform in Salt Lake and prove to the satisfaction of the audience that Henry George, either in private or public, by pen or by voice, ever uttered such language or ever advised the confiscation of the products of industry. If he can do so, I offer to donate fifty dollars to any charitable institution of the city the audience may please to name. If not, the forfeit of fifty dollars shall be made by him.

If he rejects this offer, and otherwise refuses to prove up, let him shut up. But let him note this—he will stand convicted before the public of Salt Lake of an arrogant and malicious falsehood upon the character of an honorable man.

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MANTI MATTERS.

The county court has been sitting yesterday and to-day.

THE HERALD's supplement of "Jonathan and his Continent," has been highly appreciated by all the subscribers.

I should have said last week that the Snow-Houtz company were prohibited from playing by the board of health, not the city council.

The weather for the last week in Manti has been simply delightful. Farmers are beginning to put in grain, some on Saturday last.

The newly elected city officers met with the late council last evening and received in charge the city records and official documents. In retiring Al Herman Kenner gave his best wishes to his successor in office.

John C. Tatton, an old resident of this place, died yesterday. He was about three weeks ago he was afflicted with a stroke of palsy, from which he has had to succumb. He was not having even the power of speech.

No meeting was held in the tabernacle on Sunday, in consequence of the quarantine by the board of health against all public gatherings. Day schools, Sunday schools and young men's meetings, theatres and gatherings of all kinds have been prohibited. Those who have had sore throats are most of them going about, but the yellow flags are still up at the houses where diphtheria exists. The quarantine is expected to be raised on Friday.

The SUNDAY HERALD, in its new form, came to hand last evening. It is too soon to know the general opinion of the subscribers yet, but those who have expressed themselves are more than satisfied with the change. And why should they not? The beautiful type, to say nothing of the enlargement, makes it a pleasure to read. The new features of illustrations, music, puzzle and historical columns make it not only entertaining, but artistic and instructive. To say that the Herald is improved is to say little. It is an entirely new paper. March 5, 1889.

Beauty marred by a bad complexion may be restored by Glenn's Sulphur Soap. "Hills Hair and Whisker Dye," Black or Brown, 50c.

People's Equitable Co-op, 68 and 70 First South Street.

Home-made Linsey, 25 cts. per yard. Hose, 50 cts. Three pound cans Tomatoes 2 for 25c., and Corn 15 cents.

Ross' Pharmacy, 164 Main street.

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For lace and chenille curtains, lowest price, at S. R. Marks & Co., opposite Temple.

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Don't loaf on the street corners. You can advertise for a situation without charge in THE HERALD's want column.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

The Best Salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents a box. For sale by A. C. Smith & Co.

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